

Crassostrea virginica (Eastern Oyster)

Priority 3 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: *Bivalvia* (Marine And Freshwater Molluscs)

Order: *Ostreoida* (Oysters, Scallops, And Allies)

Family: *Ostreidae* (True Oysters)

General comments:

Understudied taxa

No Species Conservation Range Maps Available for Eastern Oyster

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation: NA

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern: NA

Recent Significant Declines: NA

Regional Endemic: NA

High Regional Conservation Priority: NA

High Climate Change Vulnerability:

Crassostrea virginica is highly vulnerable to climate change.

Understudied rare taxa:

Recently documented or poorly surveyed rare species for which risk of extirpation is potentially high (e.g. few known occurrences) but insufficient data exist to conclusively assess distribution and status. *criteria only qualifies for Priority 3 level SGCN*

Notes:

climate change - Talmage and Gobler, 2009; understudied - professional judgement

Historical: NA

Culturally Significant: NA

Habitats Assigned to Eastern Oyster:

Formation Name Intertidal

Macrogroup Name **Intertidal Gravel Shore**

Habitat System Name: Gravel Shore Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System

Macrogroup Name **Intertidal Mollusc Reefs**

Habitat System Name: Oyster Reef

Macrogroup Name **Intertidal Mudflat**

Habitat System Name: Non-Vascular Mudflat

Habitat System Name: Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

Macrogroup Name **Intertidal Water Column**

Habitat System Name: Confined Channel **Notes:** larval phase

Habitat System Name: Embayment **Notes:** larval phase

Formation Name Subtidal

Macrogroup Name **Subtidal Mollusc Reefs**

Habitat System Name: Oyster Reef ****Primary Habitat****

Macrogroup Name **Subtidal Mud Bottom**

Habitat System Name: Submerged Aquatic Vegetation ****Primary Habitat****

Habitat System Name: Unvegetated ****Primary Habitat****

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Formation Name Subtidal

Macrogroup Name Subtidal Pelagic (Water Column)

Habitat System Name: Nearshore Notes: larval phase

Stressors Assigned to Eastern Oyster:

No Stressors Currently Assigned to Eastern Oyster or other Priority 3 SGCN.

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Eastern Oyster:

No Species Specific Conservation Actions Currently Assigned to Eastern Oyster or other Priority 3 SGCN.

Conservation Actions Associated with the Bivalves Guild:

Conservation Action	Category: Policy	Biological Priority: critical	Type: on-going
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Through education and collaboration, reduce the use of antifouling agents and biocides that negatively affect SGCN, and investigate alternative biofouling agents.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.